

western Atlantic during the previous week, was reduced by development of a new trough near the Pacific Coast. This was accompanied by amplification of a strong ridge over the western United States and a deepening trough off the east coast. The northerly flow east of the Rockies brought drier conditions to the Midwest (fig. 12C) associated with a strong continental polar High moving southward in the Plains after heavy precipitation during much of the month. Warm air from the western ridge spread eastward across the northern half of the country (fig. 12B) but temperatures averaged below normal in the South.

Highlights of the period included cool weather over most of the country on April 26 from a strong High in Montana, but with widespread rains in the eastern two-thirds of the country including heavy thundershowers in the Southeast and at least 1 tornado in Alabama. Cool weather continued on April 27 from a large High over the interior, although an upper disturbance produced snow in the central Rockies and rain in Iowa. Heavy rains also occurred in parts of the East associated with a frontal disturbance in North Carolina which produced at least one tornado and a hailstorm in that State. On April 28 a strong High centered over the southern Plains brought record low temperatures from the Gulf Coast to the Upper Mississippi Valley under clear skies. In the Far West,

Bakersfield warmed to a record maximum for April of 98° F. On April 29 clear skies and high pressure produced more record minimum temperatures in the South including 38° F. at Birmingham, Ala., and 34° F. at Fort Smith, Ark. On April 30, most of the country was fair under a ridge aloft. Record high temperatures for April occurred at Dubuque, Iowa (93° F.), and Norfolk, Nebr. (98° F.), while the lowest temperatures for so late in the season were recorded at Jackson, Miss. (30° F.), New Orleans, La. (49° F.), and Tampa, Fla. (48° F.).

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